



**Figure 1. Speed Flow Curves and LOS for Basic Freeway Segments (HCM Exhibit 23-2)**

The specific LOS thresholds for a freeway facility are shown below in Table 1.

LOS	Density Range (pc/mi/ln)
A	0 – 11
B	> 11 – 18
C	> 18 – 26
D	> 26 – 35
E	> 35 – 45
F	> 45

**Table 1. LOS Thresholds for a Freeway Facility**

Density is the preferred MOE because it is easily measured in the field and is more sensitive to the level of comfort and convenience that freeway users are experiencing than is speed or travel time. In fact, as volumes increase, LOS can decrease dramatically on a freeway with speed remaining constant or decreasing minimally. Additionally, because thresholds have been established, it is important to note that actual densities vary throughout each LOS range. Therefore, when calculating a specific freeway density, the analyst should recognize that a density of 26 pc/mi/ln (LOS C) and 27 pc/mi/ln (LOS D) are really not that different even though the designated letter indicates to most analysts a large difference. This is true for all four facility types. For further explanation of the methodology and calculations for obtaining the LOS for the freeway facility, see Appendix A.